

STATE

CALIFORNIA

COUNTY

San Francisco

TOWN OR VICINITY

San Francisco (Greenwich St)
Street, E. to hilltop

INDEX NUMBER

CAL 38 SANFRA, 1217

MONUMENT HISTORIC VIEW

Telegraph Hill (W. side)

REPRESENTED IN
NEGATIVE FILE

H.A.B.S. SURVEY NO.

Cal 1248

History - the Greenwich Street approach to Telegraph Hill was particularly steep. A cable car line from Powell, E. to the top of Telegraph Hill was constructed between February and June of 1884. It overcame a rise of 1 foot for each $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft., making it the steepest RR in the world. On the summit of the hill, Gustav Walter had built a 4-story resort (wooden Gothic) with

(over)

observation tower. Both cable car line and the so-called "Castle" operated at a loss, and were soon abandoned. "Castle" burned 1903.

References - Kahn, Cable Car Days in San Francisco, p. 63.
Author of Card - Joseph A. Baird, Jr., Ph.D, Architectural Historian, San Francisco, California, August 1961.